

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /081 W

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R 090712Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5349

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6387

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH XC

SUBJECT: PRC WARNINGS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. WHILE THE PRC CONTINUES TO PROVIDE RED CARPET TREATMENT TO PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS IN PEKING, ONE ASPECT OF SENIOR VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING'S BANQUET SPEECH PROVIDES FURTHER ENLIGHTENMENT ON PRC POLICY TOWARDS SOUTHEAST ASIA. USING THE OLD CHINESE PROVERB OF "LETTING THE TIGER IN THROUGH THE BACK DOOR WHILE REPELLING THE WOLF THROUGH THE FRONT GATE", TENG WARNED THAT THE SOVIETS MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RECENT US SETBACKS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. GIVEN PRESIDENT MARCOS' OFT-REPEATED STATEMENTS OF WISHING TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE PRC AND THE USSR AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, THESE WORDS COULD HAVE BEEN MEANT DIRECTLY FOR PHILIPPINE EARS.

2. PRC FONMIN CHIAO KUAH-HUA, HOWEVER, USED VERY SIMILAR LANGUAGE THE PREVIOUS NIGHT (JUNE 6) IN HIS BANQUET TOAST TO VI-  
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SITING AUSTRALIAN FONMIN WILLESEE. THE BACK-TO-BACK STATEMENTS

STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT CHINESE CONCERN OVER SOVIET AMBITIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS A MAJOR PRC CONSIDERATION OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH ASIAN NATIONS. THE FORMULATION APPEARS ONLY VALID TO DATE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA AS PRC LEADERS HAVE CONTINUED, AS HAS PRC PROPAGANDA, TO CONDEMN SUPERPOWER CONTENTION IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE MESSAGE HERE SEEMS TO BE THAT SUPERPOWER CONTENTION IS NOT THE PROBLEM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. RATHER, THE PRC IS WARNING THE ASIAN NATIONS THAT ANY FURTHER WEAKENING OF THE US POSITION COULD LEAD TO SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO REPLACE THE CURRENT US ROLE IN THE REGION, AND THAT THE SOVIETS ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE AMERICANS. THUS, THE WARNING CAN BE TAKEN AS TWO-PRONGED: BE CAREFUL OF A PRECIPITOUS US WITHDRAWAL AND ALSO BE VIGILANT AGAINST A SOVIET ATTEMPT TO MOVE IN.

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## Message Attributes

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